



छाताको चिन्हमा आफ्नो बहुमूल्य मतदान
दिएर एसडीएफको जीत सुनिश्चित गरौं।

एसडीएफको जीत नै सिक्किमको
जीत बन्दैआएको छ, एसडीएफको जीत
नै सिक्किम जनाको जीत हुनेछ।

- ◆ सिक्किम र सिक्किम जनालाई जिताउन,
- ◆ सिक्किमलाई सधैंको निम्ति सुरक्षित राख्न,
- ◆ जनताराज कायम राख्न,
- ◆ सिक्किमेली एकता र सद्भावना कायम राख्न,
- ◆ सिक्किमको शान्ति र सुरक्षालाई कायम राख्न,
- ◆ देशकै सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य सिक्किमलाई विश्वकै सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य बनाउन,
- ◆ सिक्किम जनाको आत्मसम्मानलाई बचाइराख्न,
- ◆ देशकै सर्वाधिक प्रगतिशील राज्यको गरिमालाई कायम राख्न,
- ◆ युवाहरूको सुन्दर भविष्य सुनिश्चित गर्न,
- ◆ हाम्रो कार्यक्रमहरूलाई तार्किक निष्कर्षसम्म पुऱ्याउन,
- ◆ सभ्य अनि शिक्षित समाजको हाम्रो पहिचानलाई जोगाउन,
- ◆ नारीहरूको स्वर्णिम युगलाई कायम राख्न,
- ◆ विद्यार्थीहरूको सपनालाई सार्थक बनाउन,
- ◆ कृषकहरूको मान-सम्मान बढाउन,
- ◆ सामाजिक न्याय कायम राख्न,
- ◆ मजदूरहरूको मान-सम्मान र एकता कायम राख्न,
- ◆ चालकहरूको सम्मानजनक पेशालाई अझै आकर्षक बनाउन,
- ◆ हाम्रो निर्माणात्मक क्रान्तिलाई जारी राख्न
- ◆ सिक्किमको स्वच्छ पर्यावरणको सुरक्षा गर्न,
- ◆ पर्यटन उद्योगको विकासलाई शिखरमा पुर्याउन,
- ◆ धर्मनिरपेक्षतायुक्त परिवेशलाई कायम राख्न,
- ◆ सबै जाति-समुदायको भाषा-साहित्य, संस्कृति र पहिचानको जगेर्ना गर्न।

सिक्किम र सिक्किमेली जनाको गौरवशाली विजययात्रालाई जारी राख्न जनप्रिय
नेता **श्री पवन चामलिङ**-को समयानुकूल नेतृत्वलाई समर्थन
जनाउँदै एसडीएफ पार्टीका सबै उम्मेदवारहरूलाई विजय गराऔं।

SDF warns of SKM-BJP nexus posing threat to Sikkimese identity

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 APR:

Sikkim Democratic Front party spokesperson, KT Gyaltsen, asserted today that only the safeguard of Article 371F of the Constitution can protect the identity and existence of Sikkim. SDF was the only party which has consistently safeguarded 371F, he added.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Gyaltsen contended that SDF has always worked in the interest of Sikkim and its people and stressed that people need to be serious about

this election as their votes will decide the very future of Sikkim.

He also expressed confidence that SDF will win all 32 assembly seats and the one Lok Sabha seat in this election.

Mr Gyaltsen further alleged that the alliance between Sikkim Krantikari Morcha and Bharatiya Janata Party might have collapsed in public but was still very much on as a hidden alliance, which, he said was a dangerous conspiracy.

He went on to point out that the BJP manifesto includes programmes

like imposition of uniform civil code and has also come on record with its position to do away with such protections as Article 370. Given this stance of the party, it was likely that BJP was also averse to Article 371. In this regard, he demanded that the state-unit of the BJP clear its stand regarding Article 371F since it was clearly in conflict with BJP's position on special and unique status of states.

Mr Gyaltsen also stated that there were rumours of Income Tax raids on businessmen in

the State and questioned why these raids, if they happened, were carried out so close to the elections.

In this regard, he added that SDF provided Income Tax exemption to Sikkim Subject holders and has been working tirelessly to provide IT exemption to old settlers as well.

SDF general secretary [press & publicity], Kavita Subba, added that the SDF government has been working for the protection, upliftment and welfare of women of Sikkim since inception.

EO tours three constituencies



GANGTOK, 09 APR [IPR]: Rajesh Kumar, Expenditure Observer, visited parts of Gnathang-Machong, Chujachen and Namcheybong constituencies today.

During his visit, he interacted with the concerned Sector Magistrates, VST, SST, Flying Squad teams and Booth Level officers. The Ob-

server also looked into the basic facilities available at the polling stations for the convenience of voters.

The Observer directed that guidelines provided by Election Commission of India be strictly followed and urged officials to discharge their duties effectively to ensure successful, free and fair elections.

NPS Girls bag top honours in Kimunyang Taekwondo C'ship



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 APR:

In the recently concluded Kimunyang Open Taekwondo Championship 2019, in Guwahati, Assam, Namchi Public School's Taekwondo Girls' Team bagged nine medals.

The team bagged four gold, three silver and two bronze medals, a press release informs. The gold medal winners are Anjali Chettri, Sr under 53Kg, Ruchi Subba, Under 41kg Kyorongi, Deepa Limboo, Under 42Kg and Numa Subba

in Team Poomsae.

The silver medal winners are Lhadenla Sherpa, Sr Under 46Kg, Yangchen Bhutia, Under 42Kg and Ashlesha K Rai, Under 55Kg. The bronze medal winners are Yangchen Bhutia, Under 46Kg and Numa Subba, Individual Poomsae.

The medal winning team along with the Coach, Sunil Biswakarma, was felicitated by the Director, Rev Fr George A D'Souza and the Principal, Rev Fr Stany Sequeira, in a ceremony held at the school.

Commissioning of Reserve VVPATs



RANIPOOL, 09 APR (IPR):

The commissioning of the 21 more Reserve VVPATs for Parliamentary Constituency and 13 Assembly Constituencies was conducted today at control room at Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Ranipool for re-couping reserve stock for machines for the poll day.

The commissioning was conducted under prescribed guidelines of Election Commission of India in presence of ADC East, Jamyang Namgyal, Assistant Returning Officers and other officials. During the commissioning process, a team

of engineers from Bharat Electronic Limited (BEL) were also present to supervise and assist the commissioning process of the VVPATs.

After completion of the commissioning process the reserve VVPATs were kept back in strong rooms which were then sealed. These reserve EVMs/VVPATs are prepared to replace any defective machine on poll day at the polling station and will be kept with Sector Magistrates and Zonal Magistrates, who will replace the defective EVMs/VVPATs, if any report on non-functioning is received from any polling station during the poll day (11 April).

The General Observers for East District, B Ram Shastri, Ameya Abhyankar and Mousumi Chattaraj Chaudhuri were present during the whole commissioning process.

The Strong Room opening on the day of dispatch (10 April) will take place at 7:30am which will be followed by start of polling parties dispatch from 8am onwards. The Sector Magistrates will escort all the polling parties to their respective polling stations and also will escort them back after the polling is over.

Police Observer visits North Polling Stations



MANGAN, 09 APR (IPR):

Police Observer (PO), Naveen Arora, (IG, ITBP Delhi) visited various Polling Stations of North district on 8th and 9th of April. On 08 April, he was received by Sector Magistrate of Sector-3, Swabhaw Gurung at Kabi.

During his two-day visit to the district, PO, Mr Arora inspected 15 Polling Stations regarding preparedness of Polling Stations and its security measures. Names of the Polling Stations are 29/3-Bojo Ghari Government Secondary

School, 29/19-Tingda Primary, 29/13-Phudong Senior Secondary School (Room No. 1), 32/42- Phudong Senior Secondary School (Sangha), 29/14-Phudong Senior Secondary School, 31/11-Singhik Secondary School, 32/40-Singhik Secondary School (Sangha), 31/5-Tasa Tengay Secondary School, 32/39-Tasa Tengay Secondary School (Sangha), 31/1-Lachen Secondary School, 32/37-Lachen Secondary School (Sangha), 31/2-Dzumsa, 31/12-Mangan Nagar Pa-

lika, 30/16-Power Colony and 30/21-Power Colony.

Apart from that Mr Arora visited Phudong Monastery and stopped at various Police Outpost of the district. He also met with the Static Surveillance Team (SST), Flying Squad Team (FST) and interacted with them.

On the first day, Mr Arora met with the District Election Officer (DEO) cum Returning Officer (RO), Raj Yadav at his chamber. After that he visited strong room and control room of the district.

Sensitization programme for Judicial Officers



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 APR:

Under the guidance of Judge In-Charge, Sikkim Judicial Academy, a sensitization programme for the Judicial Officers was organized on 07 Apr, 2019 (Sunday) at Sikkim Judicial Academy, Sokeythang, Gangtok, a press release informs.

Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Judge In-charge, Sikkim

Judicial Academy was the resource person for the programme on "Sentencing, Plea Bargaining, Identifying and applying Ratio Decidendi".

The participating judicial officers were requested to give presentations and talk in the aforementioned topics followed by an interactive, informative and knowledge based session chaired by the resource person.

SDF holds final rally at Chakung

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 APR:

The final rally of Sikkim Democratic Front's "Vijaya Sankalpa Rally" was held in Soreng-Chakung Constituency today at Chakung, a press release informs. Rally started from Karthok-Timburbong and culminated at Chakung Bazaar.

The rally was led by SDF Soreng-Chakung candidate, SR Subba supported by Ex MLA, RB Subba, AD Subba, and other party functionaries. More than 4000 SDF supporters participated in the rally, the release mentions.

26 poll related cases registered so far, Rs 18 lakh confiscated

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 APR:

According to Inspector General of Police [Law & Order], Gyanendra Kumar Verma, 26 poll related cases have been registered in the State so far. A total of Rs 18 lakh have been confiscated which includes Rs 15 lakh unaccounted cash and liquors and some contraband substances worth Rs 3 lakh, informed Mr Verma.

He added that vehicles without registration and without documents have been seized and all security arrangements are in place to ensure a safe environment for voters of the state.

Third round accounts inspection by Expenditure Observer

NAMCHI, 09 APR (IPR):

The third round of inspection of Accounts and re-conciliation for the contesting candidates of South District was conducted successfully by Expenditure Observer for Assembly Constituencies, Inder Solanki at DAC Namchi today. The Expenditure Observer inspected the Accounts Register of four constituencies under South District namely Namthang-Rataypani, Temi-Namphing, Rangang-Yangang and Tumin-Lingi in the presence of Assistant Expenditure Observers (AEOs) and Expenditure Agents of all the candidates of the four constituencies.

~ SummitTIMES ~
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Two field reporters for Gangtok (East) and one for West District. Should be fluent in english. Have basic knowledge in journalism. Walk in interview:

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DO YOU KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE INDEPENDENT?

When all the slogan shouting and flag raising is done with and you're in the booth staring at the EVM, you're truly independent. It is at that moment when you have to decide what is right for Sikkim. So who do you send to the parliament?

Someone who can truly speak for his land and its people without the pressure of being under the banner of a political party. Because it is only when you're free from petty politics that you can raise your voice where it matters.

We, the Sikkimese have always elected Members of Parliament, affiliated to different political parties. But have they really

spoken for us and solved the political and social problems that face us?

Isn't 40 years long enough time to get back lost Nepali assembly seats? Isn't 16 years a long enough wait for the Limbu and Tamang communities to get their assembly seat reservation? Hasn't the sitting MP put the Sikkim Subject Act under threat by supporting the Citizenship Amendment Act in the Parliament? Have our MPs really represented us or their political parties?

This time, let's be independent, cast our vote on Microphone and elect an independent candidate - Passang Sherpa for MP.



सम्भव छ

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Modi Sarkar in, Casino Sarkar Out

By: BJP Sikkim Pradesh



Chamling ends campaign on strong note at Jorethang

ARPAN PRADHAN

JORETHANG, 09 APR:

A confident Sikkim Democratic Front party president, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, closed his party's election campaign today with a public meeting at Jorethang, South Sikkim.

"I am sure that SDF will sweep all 32 constituencies and retain the Lok Sabha seat as well. I am confident about that and happy with the response of the people to our campaign," he shared while interacting with media-persons here today.

He admitted that there was always more to be done and better and said that he was not completely satisfied with campaign.

He, however, added that more than the political aspects of the campaign, what has touched him more deeply was the "enormous love and blessings" he received from the people through the campaign.

The run-up to the elections gave parties here barely a month to campaign and some time was also taken up with candidate announcements and manifesto releases as well. Today's campaign meeting was only the tenth chaired by Mr Chamling. Sikkim has 32 assembly constituencies.

The campaign was held for the three constituencies of Poklok-Kamrang, Namchi Singhithang and Zoom

Salghari and was attended by a large number of party supporters.

In his address, Mr Chamling focused on the achievements of his government over the past 25 years and highlighted the programmes and schemes planned for the future and included in the party manifesto.

He urged the people to take careful note of all the announcements made by him and included in the manifesto and also evaluate his government's performance thus far.

The next SDF Government, he said, will focus more on intellectual development and creation of quality human resource even as all the

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30,480 voters between 18-19 yrs this time, seven voters above 100 yrs

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 09 APR:

There are 30,480 voters who came of voting age only this year while there are 07 voters who are more than 100 years old in the State. This was informed by Chief Electoral Officer of Sikkim, R Telang, in a press conference held today.

Mr Telang informed that there were a total of 4,32,306 voters as on date with 2,20,305 male voters and 2,12,001 female voters in Sikkim. There are 415 voters of above 90 years.

The oldest voter, all of 105-years-old is Sumitra Rai from Poklok-Kamrang consti-

tuency.

There are 2042 PWD voters in Sikkim and school students have been appointed to assist them on polling day. He mentioned that various facilities for PWD voters like wheel chairs at Polling Stations, ramps wherever possible and free ransport facilities to help the PWD voters commute have been placed.

There are 161 candidates in this election in Sikkim, 150 in Assembly election and 11 in the Parliamentary election. There are 11 counting halls in four locations in the State to ensure smooth and speedy counting process. 1185 Ballot Units, 1185 VVPATs and 1185 Control

Units will be put to use during the polling day.

The CEO informed that there are a total of 567 polling stations in the State and 120 have been identified as critical polling stations. All required arrangements have been made for the critical polling stations like deployment of central armed police force, micro observers have been appointed and webcasting has been arranged for these polling stations, he added.

The polling station with the lowest voter count is Pakjer Primary School under Poklok Kamrang constituency with 175 voters [81 male and

turn to pg06



A cop drops his postal ballot into the letterbox kept at the Head Post Office in Gangtok exclusively to collect postal ballots. He will be on duty on 11 April, at work to ensure that the rest of the electorate can experience a free and fair elections.

Yogendra Yadav campaigns for HSP

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 APR:

Swaraj India Party national president and former AAP leader, Yogendra Yadav, is in Sikkim to support Hamro Sikkim Party and addressing a press conference today said that HSP is offering people of Sikkim an alternative for better change in the State.

Mr Yadav stated that Swaraj India Party has been supporting clean political parties and people of Sikkim need a party like HSP as it is completely different from other parties in the State.

The party has professionals and youth from different walks of life with a fresh outlook which is why Swaraj In-

dia Party is supporting HSP, he said.

Congratulating the HSP president for the party manifesto, Mr Yadav said that the party has seriously worked on its manifesto and even the Congress party in the Centre should learn from the universal basic income scheme of HSP.

HSP has worked on

every detail and budget provision before making any promise and prepared a detailed blueprint before going to the people, he added.

"This shows that HSP is committed to long term politics in the State," Mr Yadav said. He appealed to the people of Sikkim to vote for HSP to send

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BJP Sikkim campaigning concludes with Rath Yatra

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 APR:

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has stated that all its candidates of Sikkim finally completed their campaigning at 4 p.m this evening. The party has expressed hope that the people of Sikkim will make BJP candidates victorious to support the programme and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BJP has 12 Assembly candidates and one Lok Sabha candidate in this election.

A BJP press release informs that BJP took out a Rath Yatra in the capital today as part of its election campaign. The vehicle took a round of Gangtok as supporters shouted slogans of BJP.

NOTICE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER, EAST

As per Section 171 B of Indian Penal Code, any person giving or accepting any gratification in cash or kind during election process, with a view to inducing the person to exercise his electoral rights is punishable with imprisonment upto 1 year or with fine or with both. Further, as per Section 171 C of Indian Penal Code, any person who threatens any candidate or elector, or any other person, with injury of any kind, is punishable with imprisonment upto 1 year or with fine or both. Flying Squads have been formed to register cases against both the giver and the taker of bribe and for taking action against those who are engaged in threat and intimidation of electors.

All the Citizens are hereby requested to refrain from taking any bribe and in case, anybody offers any bribe or is having knowledge about the bribe or cases of threat/intimidation of electors, then he should inform on the toll-free number 1950 of the 24 X 7 Complaint Monitoring Cell or on District Control Room Number 03592-284026 of the District, set up for receiving the complaints.

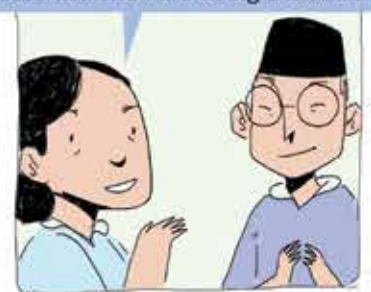
SIKKIM को ELECTIONS



Are you ready for your big day?

This is the first time you'll be voting!

Your uncle is standing for elections this time. Vote for him! He'll give you so many presents! Your dad and I are doing the same.



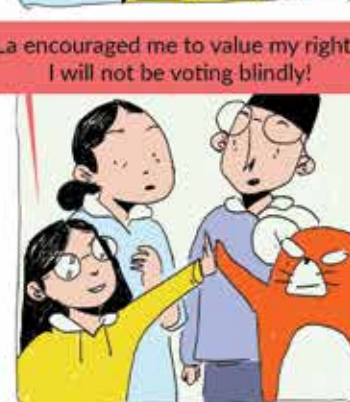
NO.

I have already decided whom to vote for. Based on all the information I gathered about the candidates!



Panda La encouraged me to value my right to vote. I will not be voting blindly!

Thank you Panda la for guiding our child!



GET READY FOR LOK SABHA ELECTION 2019

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Election Commission of India
https://eci.gov.in/

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Institutionalize Monitoring

For once, let's try engaging affected people in genuine collaborations

Projects, whether hydel, road or industrial, go through a lot of teething problems. Given their labour-intensive and landscape-ruining nature, they arrive neither with aspirational job openings nor pleasing environmental interventions. This is why mantras like “nation-building” and “development” are played out on a spool to win public endorsement. Speaking about Sikkim, experience also shows that the initial resistance to such projects is tranquilized with handsome compensations and tall promises. But these projects have a long gestation period and even longer construction phases which leads to a situation where the compensations along with the solatium component are long spent before the project has been completed. Resentment returns, and every slight gets amplified, leading to a complete breakdown of trust between the local community and the project-investors and their personnel on site. Sikkim has seen this cycle play out with just about every project, and occasionally the distrust manifests in gheraos and confrontations which then find mention in newspapers. Most of the times, however, the ill-will festers under a façade of apparent normalcy. This is not a healthy situation because the bitterness does not always find release against the management of such units and sometimes erupts against the establishment and other agencies which the people feel did not look out enough for their interests. Surely, these are not developments that the planners or the executors originally had in mind. And yet these are situations which develop often.

In the latest instance, Sikkim saw “affected people” of the 96 MW Dikchu hydel project lay out a litany of complaints against the project managers. Similar complaints and all allegations have been heard against pharma companies and the promoters of other hydel projects. Like in those cases, this bushfire will also be addressed piecemeal, focused only on the immediate demands, but ignoring the larger issue of the lack of adequate consultations, information-sharing or over-watch. The problem, hence, will remain. What is required is for every project to begin with a more transparent public hearing preceded by gram sabhas where every aspect and the fine print are discussed in detail. The state machinery should only provide information and not exert influence. Every project should have a project monitoring committee with affected people in majority representation and ex-officio posts for government officers and public representatives only in secretarial responsibilities of taking the minutes and drafting resolutions. Proper schedules should be dictated to keep these committees updated on project components and these committees should then be required to brief the gram sabhas or other panchayat meetings on a regular basis. This way, not only transparency, but even accountability can be ensured, and once this is achieved, possible problems can be addressed in advance and issues resolved before things boil over. Such engagement will also reassure the local community and, in the long run, help the projects as well because once the people are involved in the decision-making process, even if it is only by way of regular and clear updates, they will develop a sense of ownership and extend sage advice where the current system of things leaves them only with the option of registering condemnations.

Don't blame Sharia for Islamic extremism – blame colonialism

MARK FATHI MASSOUD
theconversation.com

Warning that Islamic extremists want to impose fundamentalist religious rule in American communities, right-wing lawmakers in dozens of U.S. states have tried banning Sharia, an Arabic term often understood to mean Islamic law.

These political debates – which cite terrorism and political violence in the Middle East to argue that Islam is incompatible with modern society – reinforce stereotypes that the Muslim world is uncivilized.

They also reflect ignorance of Sharia, which is not a strict legal code. Sharia means “path” or “way”: It is a broad set of values and ethical principles drawn from the Quran – Islam’s holy book – and the life of the Prophet Muhammad. As such, different people and governments may interpret Sharia differently.

Still, this is not the first time that the world has tried to figure out where Sharia fits into the global order.

In the 1950s and 1960s, when Great Britain, France and other European powers relinquished their colonies in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, leaders of newly sovereign Muslim-majority countries faced a decision of enormous consequence: Should they build their governments on Islamic religious values or embrace the European laws inherited from colonial rule?

THE BIG DEBATE

Invariably, my historical research shows, political leaders of these young countries chose to keep their colonial justice systems rather than impose religious law.

Newly independent Sudan, Nigeria, Pakistan and Somalia, among other places, all confined the application of Sharia to marital and inheritance disputes within Muslim families, just as their colonial administrators had done. The remainder of their legal systems would continue to be based on European law.

To understand why they chose this course, I researched the decision-making process in Sudan, the first sub-Saharan African country to gain independence from the British, in 1956.

In the national archives and libraries of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, and in interviews with Sudanese lawyers and officials, I discovered that leading judges, politicians and intellectuals actually pushed for Sudan to become a democratic Islamic state.

They envisioned a progressive legal system consistent with Islamic faith principles, one where all citizens – irrespective of religion, race or ethnicity – could practice their religious beliefs freely and openly.

“The People are equal like the teeth of a comb,” wrote Sudan’s soon-to-be Supreme Court Justice Hassan Muddathir in 1956, quoting the Prophet Muhammad, in an official memorandum I found archived in Khartoum’s Sudan Library. “An Arab is no better than a Persian, and the White is no better than the Black.”

Sudan’s post-colonial leadership, however, rejected those calls. They chose to keep the English common law tradition as the law of the land.

WHY KEEP THE LAWS OF THE OPPRESSOR?

My research identifies three reasons why early Sudan sidelined Sharia: politics, pragmatism and demography.

Rivalries between political parties in post-colonial Sudan led to parliamentary stalemate, which made it difficult to pass meaningful legislation. So



Sudan simply maintained the colonial laws already on the books.

There were practical reasons for maintaining English common law, too.

Sudanese judges had been trained by British colonial officials. So they continued to apply English common law principles to the disputes they heard in their courtrooms.

Sudan’s founding fathers faced urgent challenges, such as creating the economy, establishing foreign trade and ending civil war. They felt it was simply not sensible to overhaul the rather smooth-running governance system in Khartoum.

The continued use of colonial law after independence also reflected Sudan’s ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity.

Then, as now, Sudanese citizens spoke many languages and belonged to dozens of ethnic groups. At the time of Sudan’s independence, people practicing Sunni and Sufi traditions of Islam lived largely in northern Sudan. Christianity was an important faith in southern Sudan.

Sudan’s diversity of faith communities meant that maintaining a foreign legal system – English common law – was less controversial than choosing whose version of Sharia to adopt.

WHY EXTREMISTS TRIUMPHED

My research uncovers how today’s instability across the Middle East and North Africa is, in part, a consequence of these post-colonial decisions to reject Sharia.

In maintaining colonial legal systems, Sudan and other Muslim-majority countries that followed a similar path appeased Western world powers, which were pushing their former colonies toward secularism.

But they avoided resolving tough questions about religious identity and the law. That created a disconnect between the people and their governments.

In the long run, that disconnect helped fuel unrest among some citizens of deep faith, leading to sectarian calls to unite religion and the state once and for all. In Iran, Saudi Arabia and parts of Somalia and Nigeria, these interpretations triumphed, imposing extremist versions of Sharia over millions of people.

In other words, Muslim-majority countries

stunted the democratic potential of Sharia by rejecting it as a mainstream legal concept in the 1950s and 1960s, leaving Sharia in the hands of extremists.

But there is no inherent tension between Sharia, human rights and the rule of law. Like any use of religion in politics, Sharia’s application depends on who is using it – and why.

Leaders of places like Saudi Arabia and Brunei have chosen to restrict women’s freedom and minority rights. But many scholars of Islam and grassroots organizations interpret Sharia as a flexible, rights-oriented and equality-minded ethical order.

RELIGION AND THE LAW WORLDWIDE

Religion is woven into the legal fabric of many post-colonial nations, with varying consequences for democracy and stability.

After its 1948 founding, Israel debated the role of Jewish law in Israeli society. Ultimately, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and his allies opted for a mixed legal system that combined Jewish law with English common law.

In Latin America, the Catholicism imposed by Spanish conquistadors underpins laws restricting abortion, divorce and gay rights.

And throughout the 19th century, judges in the U.S. regularly invoked the legal maxim that “Christianity is part of the common law.” Legislators still routinely invoke their Christian faith when supporting or opposing a given law.

Political extremism and human rights abuses that occur in those places are rarely understood as inherent flaws of these religions.

When it comes to Muslim-majority countries, however, Sharia takes the blame for regressive laws – not the people who pass those policies in the name of religion.

Fundamentalism and violence, in other words, are a post-colonial problem – not a religious inevitability.

For the Muslim world, finding a system of government that reflects Islamic values while promoting democracy will not be easy after more than 50 years of failed secular rule. But building peace may demand it.

[the writer is Associate Professor, University of California, Santa Cruz]

Rwanda’s economic growth could be derailed by its autocratic regime

NOEL TWAGIRAMUNGU & JOSEPH SEBARENZI
THECONVERSATION.COM

A quarter of a century ago Rwanda was a graveyard. Hundreds of thousands of lives had been lost and government institutions were in a shambles. This was the aftermath of a genocide that started in April 1994 and went on until July.

An estimated three quarters of Rwanda’s Tutsi minority perished in the genocide that was presided over by the Hutu-dominated government. At the same time, tens of thousands of Hutu were massacred by the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

When the fighting ended in July 1994, the government and all its institutions laid in ruins. The rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front led by Major General Paul Kagame took over the government, promising to establish democratic government rule.

Since then debates on Rwanda’s post-genocide recovery have been polarising. On one hand, Rwanda is seen as a success story: a showcase for post-conflict reconstruction thanks to its achievements in terms of stability, economic growth, pro-business environment, women in leadership, and effective public services delivery.

On the other hand, the country is seen as experiencing an authoritarianism which is grounded in growing inequality and a climate of fear, intimidation and impunity.

This paradox raises serious questions

about the sustainability of Rwanda’s economic growth in a society dominated by one of the most autocratic, repressive governments in the world.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND GROWTH

After the genocide Rwanda’s economy was severely depressed. But 25 years down the line the country has achieved strong economic growth and impressive improvements in standards of living.

According to a World Bank study, Rwanda’s real GDP grew by more than 120% over two decades.

This remarkable growth trajectory has boosted the Rwandan Patriotic Front’s ambitions to transform the country from a poor, agrarian rural society into an IT-driven, market-centered, middle-income African economy by 2020.

We would argue that this vision for success is not only too ambitious but harmful as well. This is because it has benefited the ruling elite, foreign corporations and investors, with few benefits to the poor. A notable example is how millions of rural Rwandans were negatively affected by a government decision to replace small-scale and subsistence agriculture with commercial agribusiness and large scale ranching ventures.

Moreover, there are signs of strain within the economy. Key world players like the International Monetary Fund, who have often praised Rwanda’s economic progress, are now warning that despite its achievements “The Rwandan economy

remains vulnerable to external shocks and fiscal risks.”

Rwanda is very well aware that it is impossible to meet its Vision 2020 goal. As a result, authorities have now extended their development deadline to 2035. But even with more time to achieve the vision, financial institutions like the World Bank are estimating that at the current rate of growth Rwanda will barely cross the threshold for lower middle-income status by 2035.

AUTOCRATIC LEADER

The autocratic governance in Rwanda’s pre-genocide era was one of the key factors that led to the 1990-1994 civil war and the genocide that followed.

It would therefore have been prudent for the post-genocide government, led by the Rwandan Patriotic Front, to embrace democratic governance. Instead, the new regime established a government of national unity by incorporating other political parties and, within no time, Rwanda became a de facto one-party state with all the power concentrated in the hands of one man – Paul Kagame.

Today, Rwanda is identified as an authoritarian regime. The 2018 Democracy Index – a global governance report assembled by The Economist – noted that Rwanda is a democracy in name only.

The authors of the index observed that the Rwandan Patriotic Front, “Professes a commitment to political pluralism but has proved to be unprepared to loosen its grip

on power and allow space for genuine, non-violent opposition.”

This is a fair assessment. Kagame has shown a reluctance to relinquish his grip on the presidency. In 2015, he successfully engineered a constitutional amendment that allowed him to run for a third term in office. And in the August 2018 presidential elections, he was reelected for a third seven-year term with a reported 99% of the vote.

It is well known in Rwanda that challenging Kagame is risky. As a result he faces minimal opposition. Those who have challenged him have paid the price. Most of the candidates who opposed him in the last three elections spent time in jail.

NO FREEDOM

Autocratic governance is also reflected in the lack of freedom in Rwanda. In its 2018 report, Freedom House, ranked Rwanda as “Not Free” stating that while the regime has maintained peace and economic growth, it has also suppressed political dissent through pervasive surveillance, intimidation, and suspected assassinations.

In March 2019, Anselme Mutuyimana of the United Democratic Forces of Rwanda became the latest in a long line of opposition politicians to be found dead.

His body showed signs of strangulation and Human Rights Watch reported Mutuyimana’s death as the “latest in a long line of murders, disappearances, politically motivated arrests, and unlawful detentions in Rwanda, especially of suspected government opponents.”

The Rwanda Investigation Bureau promised to investigate his death but justice is unlikely to be served. All the previous investigations into suspected assassinations have been flawed.

On his part, Kagame has spoken publicly about the assassination of his enemies. In March 2019, he bragged about the assassination of former Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga saying, “Seth Sendashonga died because he had crossed the line. I have little to say about that, but I am also not apologetic about it.”

President Kagame uttered these words in the presence of the entire Rwandan leadership, and he knew well that neither the legislature nor the judiciary would dare initiate any proceedings to hold him accountable.

This kind of brazen authoritarian leadership has forced many Rwandans into exile and prompted refugees to remain in their host countries. Some of those refugees are active members of a growing number of armed groups who want to unseat President Kagame.

If Kagame doesn’t allow political reforms, there is a possibility that violence on a large-scale could repeat itself, putting in peril Rwanda’s economic achievements, and making Vision 2035 unattainable.

[Noel Twagiramungu is Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Lowell; Joseph Sebarenzi is Visiting Professor, SIT Graduate Institute]

Campaign ends for first phase Lok Sabha poll in Bengal

KOLKATA, APR 9 (PTI): The high voltage campaign for the first of the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal concluded on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the BJP, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and top leaders of the Congress and Left parties have campaigned for this phase in which two seats of north Bengal will go to polls on April 11.

Issues ranging from corruption to communalism, NRC to chitfund scams, and, development to security featured in the speeches of the warring party leaders.

The high-pitched campaign was mainly polarised between Banerjee and Modi.

The Trinamool Con-



gress chief called upon the people to defeat the Modi government while the prime minister urged voters to exercise their franchise in his party's favour.

The first phase electoral battle is going to be held in Cooch Behar (SC) and Alipurduar (ST) seats, both having a four-cornered contest

among the TMC, the BJP, the Congress and Left Front constituents Forward Bloc and Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP).

The TMC has fielded Paresb Adhikari against the BJP's Nisith Pramanik in Cooch Behar where Piya Roy Chowdhury of the Congress and Gobin-

da Roy of the FB are also in the fray.

In Alipurduar, the TMC nominated Dasarath Tirkey against John Berla of the BJP, while Mohanlal Basumata of the Congress and Mili Oraon of the RSP will also contest from the constituency.

A total of 18,09,598 electorates will decide

the fate of 11 contestants in Cooch Behar, while 16,42,285 voters will choose from seven contestants in Alipurduar.

The Election Commission has made elaborate security arrangements with the deployment of central and state forces to ensure a free fair and peaceful poll.

Polling personnel have already left for 2010 polling stations in Cooch Behar seat and 1834 polling stations in Alipurduar seat.

Besides general election observers and expenditure observers, the poll panel for the first time deployed a special police observer Vivek Dube.

In another first, VVPAT will be used in all polling booths along with the EVMs.

CPI(M) knocks EC's door as PM asks first time voters to vote for Balakot strike men



NEW DELHI, APR 9 (PTI): The CPI(M) wrote to the Election Commission on Tuesday alleging violation of the poll panel's directive after Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked first-time voters to dedicate their votes to the brave men who carried out the air strike in Pakistan's Balakot.

In the letter, the party's politburo member Nilotpal Basu urged the poll panel to "strongly initiate" appropriate action to stop the pre-election atmosphere from being vitiated, which is fast degenerating towards polarisation.

"With deep anguish we are drawing your attention to the latest violation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. He is also violating the specific direction of the Election Commission to refrain from invoking the armed forces for seeking votes," Basu wrote.

Addressing an elec-

tion rally in Maharashtra's Latur, Modi said, "I want to tell the first time voters, can you dedicate your first vote to the brave men who carried out the airstrike in Pakistan's Balakot?"

"Can your first vote be dedicated to the brave martyrs of the Pulwama (terror attack)?"

The Election Commission had last month asked all political parties to desist from using photographs of defence personnel as part of their election propaganda or campaigning.

The CPI(M) has also drawn the poll body's attention to the "brazenly provocative" statement of Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

"In his election campaign he asserted that they did not need votes from those wearing 'dhothis and lungis' alluding to linguistic and religious minorities in the state. The situation in Assam is quite vulnerable. A custodial death took place in

the Goalpara detention camp run by the state government.

"The detention camps for so called doubtful voters were to be dismantled as per BJP's electoral commitments. However,

not only has this assurance not implemented, but new camps have come up notwithstanding the process of Supreme Court monitored up-gradation of National Register of Citizens," Basu wrote.

Accusing the poll body of not dealing with earlier complaints with "firmness", the Left leader said that even the case of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who called the Army "Modiji ki sena", was treated "lightly".

"We urge you to strongly initiate appropriate action to stop the pre-election atmosphere from being vitiated which is fast degenerating towards polarization based on identity and assertion of national symbol for partisan electoral interests," he said.

High decibel campaign for Mizoram Lok Sabha seat ends

AIZAWL, APR 9 (PTI): A high decibel campaign for the election to the lone Lok Sabha seat in Mizoram and by-poll to the Aizawl West-I seat to be held on Thursday, ended at five pm Tuesday, chief electoral officer Ashish Kundra said. The CEO said public meetings, street campaign, publication of advertisements, press conferences by candidates and political leaders, interviews and panel discussions in the electronic media, musical concert or any form of gathering to canvass has been completely prohibited after the campaign ended. Six candidates are in the fray for the election to the lone Lok Sabha seat while it would a triangular contest in the Aizawl West - I assembly by-poll.

Those contesting the Lok Sabha polls are - C Lalrosanga of the ruling Mizo

National Front (MNF), Zoram People's Forum (ZPM) and the Congress combine's common candidate Lalnghinglova Hmar (Independent), Nirupam Chakma of the BJP, TBC Lalvenchhunga of People's Representation for Identity and Status of Mizoram (PRISM) and two independents - Lalhriatrenga Chhangte and Lalthlamuani.

Zothantluanga of the MNF, independent nominee Lalbuanga Sailo, sponsored by the ZPM-Congress combine and Rev Zaichhawna Hlawndo of 'Zoram Thar' were contesting the Aizawl West - I by-election.

Over 7.85 lakh voters (4,02,408 female and 3,81,991 male voters) would exercise franchise on April 11 to elect one Lok Sabha member and one member of the state legislature.

While the electorate

would cast their votes at 1,175 polling stations across the state, 15 special polling stations have been established at Mizoram-Tripura border Kanmun village where 12,081 Bru voters lodged in the six relief camps in neighbouring North Tripura district would cast their votes on polling day.

International borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh have been sealed by orders of the deputy commissioners of the districts adjoining the two countries so as to ensure that people and commodities that could disturb peaceful election process during polling.

Kundra said that 117 polling stations, known as 'pink polling stations' would be manned by women only and only one polling station in southernmost Lawngtlai district - Gegaguluksura has been classified as 'critical polling station'.

NPF urges electorate to vote for Congress in Nagaland

KOHIMA, APR 9 (PTI): Opposition Naga Peoples Front (NPF) Tuesday urged the people of Nagaland to vote for Congress nominee K L Chishi in the April 11 Lok Sabha polls in the state.

NPF Spokesperson Achumbemo Kikon said that the party decided

not to set up candidate in order to strengthen the secular party (Congress) which has asserted to protect the rights of the Nagas in particular and the indigenous people of North East in general.

Addressing media persons Kikon said "NPF is not fielding any candidate to ensure that the interest of Naga people and entire North East is safeguarded and protected."

World's top 10 all seeking first Masters green jacket

Augusta (United States), Ap 9 (AFP): There's a major hole on the career accomplishments list for the world's 10 top-ranked golfers this week at Augusta National -- none of them owns a Masters champion's green jacket.

It's the first time since the global rankings began in 1986 that the entire top 10 arrived at the year's first major tournament and none of them had ever won the Masters, including new world number one Justin Rose of England.

"If you look at the skill sets of the guys at the top of the world rankings, Augusta really should suit most of us," Rose said. "So I would say that this year there's probably a very good probability that one of those guys will get it done."

Third-ranked Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland, a four-time major winner, needs a Masters win to become only the sixth golfer to complete a career Grand Slam.

There's a trio of top-10 Americans with major wins lacking one at Augusta National, including second-ranked Dustin Johnson, three-time major winner Brooks Koepka (fourth) and 2017 PGA Championship winner Justin Thomas (fifth).

"I think it's just a coincidence that nobody in the top 10 has won the Masters," Thomas said. "It definitely speaks to the new wave of players."

Three more US players seek their first major title: Bryson DeCham-

beau (sixth), Rickie Fowler (ninth) and Xander Schauffele (10th).

Mix in reigning seventh-ranked reigning British Open champion Francesco Molinari of Italy and sixth-ranked Spaniard Jon Rahm, who shared fourth last year in only his second Masters start, and there's an element of extra hunger under the Georgia pines this week.

"The most important thing I learned last year is that Augusta National, expect for the par-5s, plays over par," Rahm said. "So if you make par, don't get frustrated. That's just the way it is around this course."

Rahm, 24, could not claw back from an opening 75 last year despite firing the lowest Masters third-round score of 65, but won the Spanish Open the following week.

"I hope my putting is a lot better than it was last year," Rahm said. "I feel strong in every part of my game. I just want to make a few more putts than I did last year."

The only golfer among the world's top 16 who has won the Masters is 14-time major winner Tiger Woods. And the 12th-ranked American, now 43, won his most recent of four Masters crowns in 2005.

Thunderstorms closed the course Monday afternoon with more severe weather forecast Tuesday, but most players in the field of 87 -- matching the smallest since Woods won in 1997 -- practiced before the rain struck.

Arunachal polls: 29 candidates have criminal records

ITANAGAR, APR 9 (PTI): A report by an election watchdog has revealed that 29 of the 184 candidates contesting the April 11 Assembly elections in Arunachal Pradesh have criminal antecedents.

Nine of the 29 candidates belong to the Congress, the report by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said.

The BJP, which is contesting all 60 seats in the

state for the first time, has seven candidates with criminal charges against them, it said.

The ADR report also stated that those with criminal cases account for 16 per cent of the total candidates who filed their nominations this time as against six percent during the 2014 elections.

The National People's Party, which is making

its maiden entry into the state's electoral scene, has two candidates with criminal records.

The JD(S), too, will be contesting the state polls for the first time with one of its candidates having criminal charges against him.

One independent candidate out of the total 11 in the fray has also declared a criminal case against him.

Campaigning for 5 Lok Sabha seats in Assam ends

GUWAHATI, APR 9 (PTI): High decibel campaigning for five Parliamentary constituencies in Assam going to polls in the first phase on April 11 ended on Tuesday.

Campaigning for Tezpur, Kaliabor, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Lakhmpur constituencies ended at 4 pm and polling will be held on Thursday to decide the fate of 41 candidates, including two women, in fray.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress president Rahul Gandhi, BJP chief Amit Shah, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath along with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi were some of the prominent leaders who campaigned in the state.

Singer and BJP MP Babul Supriyo campaigned for his party candidates while actress and Congress member Naghma campaigned for party's Kaliabor candidate and sitting MP Gaurav Gogoi by participating in a road show.

The campaign was characterised mostly

by public rallies by the prominent national and state leaders while the candidates concentrated mainly on roadside meetings and door to door campaigning.

The ruling BJP concentrated on the initiatives taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to develop Assam and the North East, including the inauguration of three bridges in the state while the opposition Congress and other parties highlighted the BJP's attempt to bring in the Citizenship Amendment Bill and the alleged failure of the Modi government to fulfill the promises made before the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

There are three sitting MPs -- two of the BJP and one of the Congress while two state ministers are also pitted against their Congress rivals.

Lakhimpur has the highest number of 11 candidates in the fray but the main the contest is between sitting BJP MP Pradhan Barua and Congress candidate Anil Borgohain, who has been given the ticket for the first time.

In the Dibrugarh constituency eight candidates are in fray but

NE people to be consulted before bringing up citizenship bill: Rijiju

ITANAGAR, APR 9 (PTI): A day after the BJP promised in its election manifesto to enact the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill if voted back to power, Union minister Kiren Rijiju said Tuesday people of the northeastern states will be consulted before bringing up the bill.

Even if the bill is implemented in the rest of the country, there will be special provisions for the region, Rijiju said.

The contentious bill seeks to grant Indian citizenship to people belonging to minority communities Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan after six years of residence in India even if they do not possess proper documents.

A largescale protest had broken out in the northeastern states earlier this year as the indigenous people of the region apprehended the enactment of the bill would endanger their livelihood and identity.

"If other states of the country want the bill to be enacted, the BJP is committed to bring it. However, for the northeast, the party will consult the people before taking any decision which is clearly mentioned in the manifesto," the minister of state

for home told reporters here.

"There should be no doubt among the people of the region, the BJP is committed to protect their rights," Rijiju said.

The bill, being vehemently opposed in the region even by some allies of BJP, was passed in Lok Sabha on January 8. However, it is set to lapse on June 3, when the term of the present Lok Sabha ends, as it could not be passed in Rajya Sabha.

The Union minister, who is seeking re-election from Arunachal West parliamentary constituency, said no other dispensation had attached so much importance to the northeast as the NDA government.

Even Indians of other states cannot settle in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram that are 'protected' under special provisions of the Constitution, he said.

However, for other 'unprotected' states of the region such as Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura, the government has decided to introduce the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in which only genuine Indian citizens would be included, he said.

With introduction of the NRC, refugees who have already settled in the region due to reli-

gious persecution will be examined under special provisions, Rijiju said.

In its manifesto released on Monday in New Delhi, the BJP promised to implement the NRC, currently underway only in Assam, in a phased manner in other parts of the country.

"Being a representative of the northeast, it is my duty to think of the people of the region and I assure them that the BJP will protect their culture, traditions and languages," he added.

On the contentious Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) issue in Arunachal Pradesh, which left three people dead and private and public properties damaged in February, Rijiju claimed that people have already realised who were responsible for the violence.

"The people have also realised the mission of the BJP. It is committed to peace, progress and development," Rijiju said adding that the party would work for a "clean election" drive in the state after coming to power.

"Clean election is the hallmark of clean governance. We will try to make election clean without involvement of cash for a better Arunachal," he added.

Suarez returns to England with much to gain and nothing to prove

BARCELONA, APR 9 (AFP): His goal against Atletico Madrid on Saturday should prove Barcelona's knock-out blow in La Liga and now Manchester United are tasked with containing the might of Luis Suarez in Europe.

The image of Lionel Messi's partner-in-chief has been defined by his darker side, a relentless, ferocious and, occasionally, misguided opponent, running defenders ragged for the best part of a decade.

When Barca's coach Ernesto Valverde is asked about the threat posed by Suarez, the description he often reverts to is "un dolor de cabeza". A headache.

Suarez's reputation as one of the game's arch-villains is entrenched, perhaps nowhere deeper than in England, where he was found guilty of racial abuse for calling United's Patrice Evra "negrito" in 2011 and, a season later, sank his teeth into the arm of Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic.

Suarez was suspended for a combined 18 matches and there were two further bites, on Otman Bakal in 2010 and Giorgio Chiellini in the 2014

World Cup.

Suarez returns to Old Trafford on Wednesday in the last 16 of the Champions League, the tournament Barcelona crave success in this season more than any other.

Two months before his clash with Chiellini, Suarez had been named the Premier League's PFA Players' Player of the Year and won the division's Golden Boot award after scoring 31 goals for Liverpool.

In four seasons at Anfield, he hit 82 goals in 133 games, a ratio better than both Thierry Henry and Robin van Persie at Arsenal, Alan Shearer at Newcastle and Didier Drogba at Chelsea.

For Barcelona, who paid Liverpool just over 80 million euros to sign Suarez in 2014, his contribution has been clouded less by indiscipline and more by Messi, the player around whom the whole team revolves.

Suarez is Messi's provider, runner and foil but has managed to perform the role without losing sight of what he can bring too.

- LONG AWAY DROUGHT IN EUROPE - Karim Benzema delivered 11 and five league goals in his last two seasons in the shad-



ow of Cristiano Ronaldo but in five years at Barca, Suarez's La Liga tally reads 27, 35, 35, 33 and 30, the last still with seven games to play.

There have been barren spells, often in the late summer months, when fitness has been lacking, and in the Champions League, where Suarez faces United hunting only his second goal in 17 games. He has not scored away from Camp Nou in the tournament since September 2015.

"It's one of those things, a coincidence," said Valverde.

But few can dispute Suarez's part in what is now one of the most

dominant eras in the history of Spanish football.

Messi's talent stands alone but his partnership with Suarez, a close personal friend, is extraordinary too.

Together they have 66 goals in all competitions this season, 43 for Messi and 23 for Suarez, while in the league they have 53, more than every team in the division, except Real Madrid.

When Messi broke his arm in October and Barca were forced to manage without the Argentinian, Suarez stepped up, scoring six times in five games. They are now within touching distance of their eighth La Liga title in 11 years, secured, surely, by their 2-0 win over Atletico last weekend, in which Suarez scored the opener in the 85th minute.

It was a curling, long-range shot into the corner, the first that goalkeeper Jan Oblak had conceded from outside the box all season, after 30 previous attempts. "We could only have scored with a goal like that one by Suarez," said Valverde.

With another league title, and perhaps domestic double, on its way, Barcelona can put the Champions League at the front and centre of their run-in. Suarez will be at the heart of it.

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‘India need to play key role in promoting women’s Tests’



Sydney, Apr 9 (PTI): Australia captain Meg Lanning says women's Test matches need to spread beyond Australia-England rivalry and feels India need to play a big role in promoting the format.

Australia will tour England later this year to play a one-off Test in the multi-format women's Ashes series that includes three ODIs and three T20Is as part of a points-based seven-match series.

Besides Australia and England, India and South Africa are the two cricket playing nations to have played women's Test matches in the last decade.

"We'd love to play more Test matches. Unfortunately, it's only Australia and England that are interested at the moment, and we only play each other every couple of years. That probably is a bit of a problem," Lanning was quoted as saying by SEN Radio.

"Hopefully down the track more countries are interested. I think India would be great at playing Test matches. I think they'd probably be the big fish to get involved because they've got such a big influence in cricket.

"If that was the case, I think that would definitely help that side of the game grow. But unfortunately, one game every two years, it's difficult to prepare for and play well. But we enjoy playing them so hopefully there's a few more down the track," she added.

The 27-year-old Lanning made her debut for Australia in 2010 and since then she has played only three Tests as compared to 85 T20Is and 72 ODIs.

Meanwhile, the women's T20 exhibition games, scheduled to be held during the playoffs of the ongoing IPL, will feature overseas players from six nations.

According to a report in espnricinfo, some of the top women's international players who will be invited for the three-team tournament include West Indies' Deandra Dottin and T20 World Cup-winning captain Stafanie Taylor, South Africa skipper Dane van Niekerk and fast bowler Marizanne Kapp besides Sri Lanka's Chamari Atapattu.

The overseas players of Australia's Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) and the English Kia Super League (KSL) are set to be grouped with cricketers who had participated last year, including Australia's Lanning, Ellyse Perry, Alyssa Healy and Megan Schutt, New Zealand's Suzie Bates and Sophie Devine, and England's Danielle Wyatt.

Yogendra Yadav campaigns...

a positive message to the nation that clean and better politics is possible.

HSP president, Dr Bina Basnett thanked Mr Yadav and his team for supporting HSP in establishing a new political culture in the State.

The press conference was also addressed by HSP spokesperson, Biraj Adhikari and SIP national general secretary, Avik Saha.

Indian football team to play in King’s Cup in June

NEW DELHI, APR 9 (PTI): The Indian football team will be playing in the invitational King's Cup in Thailand in June.

All matches will be held at the Chang Arena, Buriram, which has a seating capacity of 36000.

Besides India and hosts Thailand, the other teams in the competition are Vietnam and Curacao. As per April 2019 FIFA rankings, India are ranked 101, with

Thailand at 114, Vietnam at 98, and Curacao at 82.

The King's Cup is a FIFA-sanctioned international 'A' tournament being organised by the Football Association of Thailand since 1968. India's previous participation in the King's Cup was in 1977.

Two matches will be held on June 5, the winners of whom qualify for the final. The two others teams

would be playing the play-off for the third spot.

This is the first time in 18 years that the Blue Tigers will be playing in a FIFA Ranking tournament, the last being the Merdeka Tournament in Kuala Lumpur in 2001.

Kushal Das, General Secretary, AIFF said the King's Cup is the perfect platform for the new coach to "understand the nucleus of the team".

Our win was too close for comfort, says Kings XI skipper Ashwin

Mohali, Apr 9 (PTI): Kings XI Punjab skipper Ravichandran Ashwin has said his side has a lot of scope for improvement after they encountered yet another "too close" game in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

KL Rahul (71 not out) and Mayank Agarwal (55) struck fluent half-centuries to guide Kings XI Punjab to a six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in a nail-biting contest here. Chasing 151 for a win, Kings XI were coasting at 132 for one before three quick wickets took the game to the wire.

"Too close for comfort. We have had really

"The new national coach will be on board by mid-week of May. With the FIFA 2022 World Cup Qualifiers scheduled to kick off in September, the King's Cup will help the team get in proper shape for the tough challenges ahead," he stated.

"I am extremely thankful to the Thailand FA for sending us an invitation to play in the tournament."

close games, the biggest positive for me is there is scope for improvement," Ashwin said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"It will be really harsh to say that we conceded 100 runs in the last 10 overs. The plans were held very well upon. There is enough ability to work on it."

Ashwin backed Mujeeb Ur Rahman, saying the Afghan spinner was an asset who can be used upfront.

"Mujeeb knows Mohali very well and as a spinner you need to know the lengths and speeds to bowl at. Sometimes the figures don't do justice, but I think Mujeeb bowled well today.

30,480 voters between ...

94 female] and polling station with the highest voter count is Arithang Junior High School Room No 1 under Arithang constituency with 1405 voters [757 male and 648 female].

Kupup Primary School under Gnathang-Machong constituency situated at an altitude of 13,400 ft is the highest altitude polling station in the state with 288 voters [152 male and 136 female].

ELECTION STATS
• 2,20,305 male voters and 2,12,001 female voters
• 415 voters above 90 years
• 2,042 PWD voters
• 105-year-old, Sumitra Rai from Poklok-Kamrang is oldest voter
• Lowest voter count is Pakjer Primary School under Poklok Kamrang constituency with 175 voters
• Highest voter count is Arithang Junior High School Room No 1 under Arit constituency with 1405 voters
• There are 39 all women polling stations
• 4000 police personnel including para-military forces deployed
• 567 polling stations out of which 120 have been identified as critical

There are a total of 39 all women polling stations in the State, which has been completely managed and manned by women polling teams and police force. Likewise, there are 28 Model polling stations have been set up in the State.

The CEO informed that there are 3600 polling personnel including reserve and 7 General Observers, 1 Police Observer, 8 Expenditure Observers and 2 Accessibility Observers for this election in the State.

Mr Telang informed that more than 42000 mock votes have been cast during SVEEP awareness campaigns throughout the state covering 10% of the total voters of the state. Allocation of all constituency voting machines, polling stations, polling parties and police teams have been randomised according to ECI Guidelines so as to rule out any fallacies. He informed that one voter guide is also being handed over to each family and voter slips have also been distributed to individual voters.

Inspector General of Police [Law & Order], Gyanendra Kumar Verma informed that the police strength deployed for the elections all over the state is 4000 including the para-military forces. He mentioned that the forces are being utilised to the optimum, right from guarding of the Strong Rooms, manning critical polling stations and all women polling stations, conducting area domination drives amongst others.

He informed that all firearms have been deposited with the police forces. He informed that 49 Sector Police Officers have been deputed along with 49 Sub Sector Police Officers. He added that the area domination is still continuing and more flag marches will be carried out before poll. He stated that preventive detentions have been made.

Chamling ends campaign...

developmental initiatives are sustained and improved upon.

"I have dedicated my life to the service of Sikkim and its people and worked to make their dreams come true," he said, adding, "To provide happiness and peace to the people of Sikkim is my happiness and success."

The SDF government has institutionalized democracy and established an environment in which the people are free and fearless, he added.

He added that pending demands and incomplete works will be completed in the next term.

The following are some of the announcements he made for the area:

- A college of music College in Jorethang
- Tourist Spot at Chiwa Bhanjyang
- Upgradation of Jorethang Public Ground into a quality stadium
- Beautification of various markets in Jorethang and unique branding of Jorethang

He also lashed out against the Opposition parties and accused them of misleading the people. He urged everyone to vote responsibly to save Sikkim and to keep it secure.

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Algeria lawmakers elect first new president in 20 years

ALGIERS, APR 9 (AFP): Lawmakers named the speaker of the upper house as Algeria's first new president in two decades Tuesday, after the resignation of Abdelaziz Bouteflika following mass protests.

The election of Abdelkader Bensalah as interim president follows constitutional rules but goes against the demands of demonstrators, who have pushed for him and other top politicians to stand down.

"I want to work towards fulfilling the interests of the people," Bensalah told parliament on taking up the 90-day interim presidency.

"It's a great responsibility that the constitution demands of me," the 77-year-old added.

Opposition parties refused to back Bensalah's election and boycotted the session, as hundreds of students protested against him in Algiers.

"Resign Bensalah!" they chanted outside the main post office, which has become the focal point of weeks of mass protests in the capital.

Ahead of the parliamentary session, an editorial in pro-government daily El Moudjahid on Tuesday suggested Bensalah should step aside from the presidential post.

He is not only "not tolerated by the citizen movement, which demands his immediate departure, but also by the opposition" and various political groups in both houses of parliament, the newspaper said.

On Friday -- in the first weekly mass protest since Bouteflika announced his departure after losing the military's support -- Algerians demanded regime stalwarts be excluded from the political transition.

Three men in particular have drawn ire: Bensalah, head of the constitutional council Tayeb Belaiz and prime minister Nouredine Bedoui.

The protest movement is calling for a new transitional framework that is committed to deep reforms and organising free elections.

Ahead of Bensalah's appointment, calls continued for the speaker to step down.

"He has to resign, it's the voice of the people and the people must be right," said 50-year-old Mourad, an entrepreneur who will protest Friday with his two young daughters.

"They don't know that there's democracy... I want to teach them what freedom is," he added.

Algerians of all ages have rallied since late

February against Bouteflika, who resigned a week ago after efforts to appease demonstrators proved fruitless.

But although the 82-year-old's resignation was celebrated by protesters, they have remained firm in pushing for a wider overhaul of the political system.

Human Rights Watch said Bouteflika's departure is "at most a first step in ending autocratic rule." "During any transitional phase, authorities should fully respect the rights of Algerians to speak, assemble and associate with one another," the watchdog said in a statement.

Third 'Walking Dead' series to be launched in 2020

LOS ANGELES, APR 9 (PTI): A third series in "The Walking Dead" franchise has been green-lit by AMC for a 2020 premiere.

According to EW, the network said the new show will feature two young female protagonists and focus on the first generation to come-of-age in the apocalypse.

"Some will become heroes. Some will become



villains. In the end, all of them will be changed forever: Grown-up and cemented in their identities, both good and bad," the synopsis further read.

The series was created by chief content officer Scott M Gimple and TWD writer/producer Matt Negrete, who will act as showrunner.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HOME DEPARTMENT GANGTOK

No. Home /Protocol/2019/09

Date:8/4/19

NOTICE

The following Logo/insignia belongs to Government of Sikkim.



It has come to notice that some fraud/surreptitious organizations are using it for their own petty gains for misleading the students/vulnerable sections of the society.

People at large hereby cautioned not to be mislead/lured by their offers/mis information campaigns.

Sd/-
(Pratap Pradhan) SCS,
Secretary (Protocol)
Home Department
File No. Home/Protocol/610/2016.

R.O. No. 05/IPR/Pub/Classi/18-19 Date: 09/04/19.

India highest recipient of remittances at USD 79 billion in 2018: World Bank

BY LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, APRIL 9 (PTI): India retained its position as the world's top recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending a whopping USD 79 billion back home in 2018, the World Bank said in a report Monday.

India was followed by China (USD 67 billion), Mexico (USD 36 billion), the Philippines (USD 34 billion), and Egypt (USD 29 billion), the global lender said.

With this, India has retained its top spot on remittances, according to the latest edition of the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief.

Over the last three years, India has registered a significant flow of remittances from USD 62.7 billion in 2016 to USD 65.3 billion 2017.

"Remittances grew by more than 14 percent in India, where a flooding disaster in Kerala likely boosted the financial help that migrants sent to families, the Bank said.

In Pakistan, remittance growth was moderate (seven per cent), due to significant declines in inflows from Saudi Arabia, its largest remittance source. In Bangladesh, remittances showed a brisk uptick in 2018 (15 per cent).

According to the report, remittances to low-and middle-income countries reached a re-

cord high of USD 529 billion in 2018, an increase of 9.6 per cent over the previous record high of USD 483 billion in 2017.

Global remittances, which include flows to high-income countries, reached USD 689 billion in 2018, up from USD 633 billion in 2017, it said.

The Bank said, remittances to South Asia grew 12 per cent to USD 131 billion in 2018, outpacing the six per cent growth in 2017.

"The upsurge was driven by stronger economic conditions in the United States and a pick-up in oil prices, which had a positive impact on outward remittances from some GCC countries," it said.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional inter-governmental political and economic bloc of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

However, the Bank in its report rued that the global average cost of sending USD 200 remained high, at around seven per cent in the first quarter of 2019.

Reducing remittance costs to three per cent by 2030 is a global target under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10.7. Remittance costs across many African corridors and small islands in the Pacific remain above 10 per cent.

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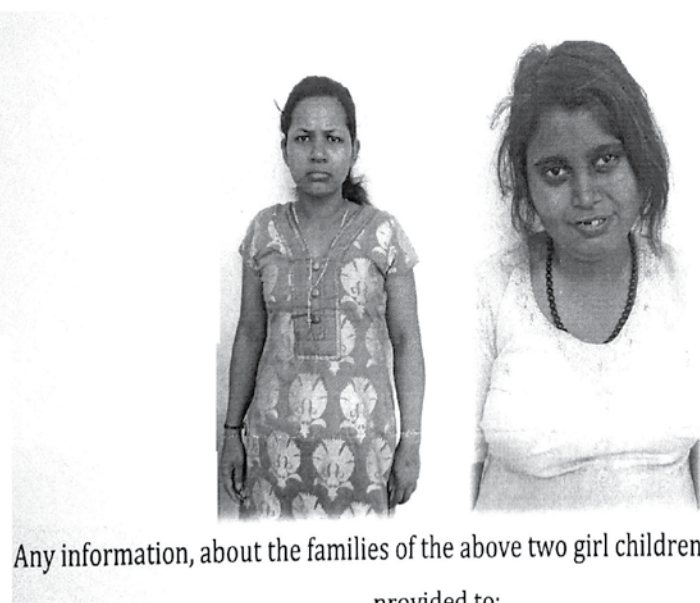
Fully furnished, 3 Bedroom flat available for rent at Church Road, Near Diesel Power House. Conveniently located by the roadside and a 5-minute walk from M.G. Marg. Suitable for Corporate Office and Guest House.

For further details please

Lost & Found Do you know this child?

Please share this alert to help reunite them with their family.

The two girl children below are 'hearing impaired' and 'mute', they are currently the resident of Children Home for Girls, Kakkanad, Kerala, 682 037.



Any information, about the families of the above two girl children may kindly be provided to:

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Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim,
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Email ID: sikkim_slsa@live.com

R.O. No. 06/IPR/Pub/Classi/19-20 Date: 09.04.2019

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FAQ

EVM with VVPAT Unit

Q12. Is it possible to vote more than once by pressing the button again and again?

Ans. No. As soon as a particular button on the Balloting Unit is pressed the vote is recorded for that particular candidate and the machine gets locked. Even if one presses that button further or any other button, no further vote will be recorded. This way the EVMs ensure the principle of "one man, one vote". The next vote is enabled only when the Presiding Officer/Polling Officer in-charge of the Control Unit releases the Ballot by pressing the Ballot Button. This is a distinct advantage over the ballot paper system.

Q13. How can a voter be sure that the EVM is working and his vote has been recorded?

CALL 1950 FOR ANY ELECTION RELATED QUERIES
Contact Hours : 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

MCC IS IN EFFECT

WHAT IS MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT?

Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India for the conduct of political parties and candidates during elections. The Model Code of Conduct comes into force immediately with the announcement of the election schedule by the Commission for ensuring free and fair elections.

सोचो

Visit the website: eci.gov.in



Election Symbol

SHRI DB CHAUHAN
BJP Sikkim President &
Arithang CandidateLATEN TSHERING SHERPA
Lok SabhaSHRI RAM MADHAV
National General Secretary &
North East In-charge, BJPSHRI AMIT SHAH
National President, BJP

Aapka Matdaan, Loktantra ki Jaan

Unnat Sikkim Shresth Bharat

CBI Enquiry into Rampant Corruption in Sikkim, Our Commitment

Aapka Vikas Hamara Sankalp

- Complete protection of 371F
- Limboo-Tamang reservation
- Improvements in state's educational infrastructure
- Free Sikkim from corruption and fear
- A house for everyone by 2022
- Health insurance of upto Rs 5 lakh for every family
- Empowerment and protection of women
- Industry status for tourism
- Drinking water supply to every home
- Take the creative arts and sports to new levels in Sikkim
- Rs 1 Lakh crore credit guarantee scheme for micro, small and medium Entrepreneurs

Main
Chaukidar
Hoon

Save Sikkim, Bring in Change

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ChujachenBIRENDRA POURALI
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Martam-RumtekDEVI BASNETT
NamcheybongBHARAT DULAL
RhenockSANCHO LEPCHA
RinchenpongM B KARKI
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Gangtok

For the complete protection of your rights and a bright future for Sikkim, on the day of polls, 11 April, cast your valuable votes in favour of the above-mentioned Bharatiya Janata Party candidates by pressing the Lotus button and strengthen the hands of Narendra Modi ji

An appeal by:
BJP Sikkim Pradesh